

THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MEDICAL SOCIETY

(Reported by William Duffield, President)

From a little leather-bound book, in a very clear and elegant penmanship, may be found the following: "At a meeting of the Los Angeles County Medical Society, April 6, 1888, W. G. Cochran offered the following resolution which was adopted: 'Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to communicate with the regular physicians of Southern California to ascertain their wishes in regard to the organization of a District Medical Society.' In accordance with the resolution the president, G. W. Lasher, appointed as such committee W. G. Cochran, H. G. Brainerd and John L. Davis. The committee met and prepared a circular, explaining the purpose of the resolution; this circular together with an addressed postal card for response was then, on April 14, 1888, sent by the committee to about two hundred and fifty physicians of Southern California, including the counties of Kern, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura. In response to the circular about eighty replies were received, all, with two or three exceptions, favoring the proposed organization. On May 4, 1888, the committee made its report to the Los Angeles County Medical Society. Its action was approved and the committee was continued and authorized to call a meeting for the purpose of organizing a District Medical Society. The committee thereupon issued the call for Los Angeles, June 8, 1888. The meeting took place in Hotel Hollenbeck of Los Angeles on June 8, 1888, and about eighty physicians were present during the day."

And this is the story of the beginning of the Southern California Medical Society. Most of those who comprised that first eighty are no longer with us. But their good lives. The District Medical Society has brought a fellowship, a unity of effort for the good of the people and for the profession, a neighborliness, which could not be brought about by the County Society nor by the State Society in this great big empire of a State. It has never encroached upon the domain of either of its relatives, but has always brought the whole family into a better relationship twice a year.

This society has a fine record for clean, honest, scientific service, as well as for the fellowship, too. When one reads the pages of its history, one sees that these old fellows who founded it, and who were part of its earlier history, have very good reason for watching the service of those who have succeeded them. Indeed, they are very jealous of that past, and they are going to keep a sharp eye on the present of the society.

It would be interesting for the Journal to give some of the early history as one will find it in these carefully penned pages, for we know there are many members of our big State family who reach back to those days in sacred memories. There is a fine sentiment in it aside from the history—and what is there in life that is worth while that hasn't a lot of sentiment for seasoning.

Well, anyway, the next semi-annual meeting of the Southern California Medical Society—the "District Society"—will be held in Los Angeles on Friday and Saturday, November 3 and 4. Dr. Egerton Crispin, the secretary, has prepared a very excellent program—one good enough for any society, anywhere. Among the visiting speakers will be Louis Wilson, of the National Board of Medical Examiners and Dean of the Graduate School of the University of Minnesota, who will talk on the needs of the medical profession in their relation to the public, and the problems in medical education in their relation to the university and the public; E. C. Rosenow, Professor of Bacteriology in the Graduate School of the University of Minnesota, and Mayo Foundation, will present new

research work in bacteriology and experimental medicine; Walter Alvarez of San Francisco will give "The Results of Clinical Observations and Blood Pressure Studies in Sixteen Thousand High School and University Students." A large number of other excellent papers by men of the "District," from Santa Barbara to Tia Juana and Mexicali.

In this society the discussions are given equal prominence with the papers, and the members who have accepted places on the program for discussion have been put in touch with the original paper, and have had much time in which to prepare their presentations. Special clinics will be held at many of the hospitals on the forenoon of the first day of the meeting. I regret my inability to furnish the Journal with the complete program, but that seems impossible at this writing. However, everybody may be assured that the two days will be crowded with excellent features from start to finish—days which will be most profitable to those who attend.

And all regular physicians are cordially invited.

BOOKS RECEIVED

The Practice of Medicine. By A. A. Stevens, M. D., Professor of Applied Therapeutics in the University of Pennsylvania; Professor of Therapeutics and Clinical Medicine in the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania. Octavo of 1106 pages. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1922. Cloth, \$7.50 net.

Radium Therapy. By Frank Edward Simpson, A. B., M. D., Professor of Dermatology, Chicago Polyclinic. 391 pages with 166 original engravings. St. Louis: C. V. Mosby Company. 1922. Price, \$7.

The Healthy Child From Two to Seven. A handbook for parents, nurses and workers for child welfare. By Francis Hamilton Maccarthy, M. D. 235 pages. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1922.

A Textbook of Clinical Periodontia. A study of the causes and pathology of periodontal disease and a consideration of its treatment. By Paul R. Stillman, D. D. S., and John Oppie McCall, A. B., D. D. S. 240 pages. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1922.

The Law of Vital Transfusion and the Phenomenon of Consciousness. An account of the necessity for and probable origin of the development of sex and of the development of the conscious state in the evolution of the organic world, with a preliminary statement of fundamental cosmical principles. By Charles J. Reed. San Francisco: Occidental Publishing Company. 1921.

Hay Fever and Asthma. Care, prevention and treatment. By William Scheppergrell, A. M., M. D. 274 pages. Illustrated with 107 engravings and one colored plate. Philadelphia and New York: Lea and Febiger. 1922. Price, \$2.75.

Nutrition and Specific Therapy. By Dorothy E. Lane, S. B. 185 pages. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1922.

Readings in Evolution, Genetics and Eugenics. By Horatio Hackett Newman, Professor of Zoology in the University of Chicago. 512 pages. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1921.